Alberta Municipal Affairs

ABSA
the pressure equipment safety authority

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INTERPRETATION
Pressure Welders Regulation
Performance Qualification Card Expiry Date Extension

This Information Bulletin provides an interpretation of Section 8(8)(c) of the *Pressure Welders Regulation* (AR 169/2002) respecting "continuously employed" as a welder for the purpose of extending the expiry date of a performance qualification card.

Interpretation

Pressure Welders Regulation Section 8
Expiry Dates

> *…8(8) The expiry date of a performance qualification card issued to an employee of an organization authorized under the Act to manufacture boilers, pressure vessels or pressure piping systems with respect to a Grade B Pressure Welder Certificate of Competency, Pressure Tack Welder Certificate of Competency or Machine Welding Operator Certificate of Competency may be extended by 6-month periods while the employee is employed by the organization if*
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> > *(a) the organization is the testing organization that conducted the employee's performance qualification test,*
> > *(b) the organization maintains performance qualification records in accordance with the current ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section IX Welding and Brazing Qualifications, declared in force under the Act,*
> > *(c) the employee is continuously employed by the organization,…*

The requirement for the holder of the performance qualification card to be "continuously employed by the organization" is interpreted to mean the holder must meet the 6 month continuity requirement as described for welders and welding operators in ASME Code Section IX Welding and Brazing Qualifications paragraph QW-322.

The expiry date of a performance qualification card may be extended by 6-month periods, provided not more than 6 months have passed since the performance qualification card holder last used the process permitted by the card while under the supervision and control of an organization that meets the requirements specified in Section 8(8).

TYPE: INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION: Performance Qualification Card Expiry Date Extension	REGULATION: PWR

Background

Section 8(8)(c) of the Pressure Welders Regulation (AR 169/2002) requires the performance qualification card holder to be continuously employed by a manufacturer as one of the requirements to extend the expiry date of the holder's performance qualification card. The term "continuously employed" is not defined within the Regulation. The common occurrence of short term layoffs of pressure welder and machine welding operator in the boiler and pressure vessel manufacturing industry may result in unnecessary additional performance qualification examinations.

The continuity requirement of QW-322 meets the technical intent of the Regulation requirement for welder to be continuously employed.

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